



## James "Jim" Ruth

September 30, 2015

James R. "Jim" Ruth, 75, of Lancaster died unexpectedly on Sunday, September 27, 2015.

He was born April 8, 1940 at home in Manheim Township to Samuel Elmer and Julia Weina Ruth. He was the youngest of eight children: Harold (deceased), Donald, Salunga; Grace Stoudt (deceased), Arlene Aukamp (deceased) and Thelma Shirk, Audrey Long and Shirley Hornberger, all of Lancaster.

He was formerly married to Patricia Banzhof-Spangler. Also survived by their daughter, Karen Lynn Dobosh of Elizabethtown, his son, Gary D. Spangler of Willow Street and four grandchildren: Taylor and Justin Dobosh, Elaine and Emily Spangler and one great grandchild, Sadie Worall.

Jim graduated in 1958 from Lampeter-Strasburg High School where acting in High School Theater whetted a lifelong affection for and involvement in theater and working on the school newspaper and yearbook foreshadowed his eventual 40-year career as a professional journalist with the Sunday News in Lancaster.

There he served as editor of the former TV Week magazine, feature writer, wire editor, arts journalist, columnist, longtime reviewing member of the American Theater Critics Assn. and Entertainment Editor, winning Keystone

state writing awards for Feature Series (on the state of downtown Lancaster), Feature Writing and Sports Feature. Over the course of his newspaper career, he became noted for his candid interviews with scores of stars and celebrities as well as his review of theater on all levels, from college to community to regional to Broadway.

He also was assistant director and associate librettist for “The War on Drugs” a musical street theater production in Lancaster Square that made headlines for death threats against its producers in 1990.

Upon retiring in 2006, he became a producing member of the Ephrata Performing Arts Center board of directors, which he also served in marketing and promotion.

He also intensified a longtime dedication to volunteer service which included the former Lancaster AIDS Project, Hospice of Lancaster County, Lancaster General Hospital (ER), and the Lancaster County Democratic Committee.

In 2008, he served as a steering committee member and chairman of entertainment for the first-ever Lancaster Pride festival attended by more than 2,000 people in Buchanan Park.

A Celebration of Jim’s Life will be held at the Ephrata Performing Arts Center, 320 Cocalico Street, Ephrata, PA 17522 on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception where memories and stories will be shared amongst those that knew and loved Jim. Please follow on Jim’s facebook page.

A private service and interment will take place at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jim’s name may be sent to Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Dr., P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125 or Ephrata Performing Arts Center, 320 Cocalico Street, Ephrata, PA 17522.



# Tribute Wall



“ *James "Jim" Ruth*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *My wife and I were traveling out of the country and learned about the passing of Jim when we returned home. Needless to say we were deeply shocked and saddened. I got to know Jim through his volunteerism at EPAC and know that he will be missed. Our prayers and thoughts to the family.*

**Rudy Popolis** - October 08, 2015 at 08:43 AM



“ *We the LS class of "58" were saddened by the loss of one of our members. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Our class made a point of getting together several times a year and Jim helped to set that up. He was always at the luncheons and anything the class did. We scheduled a luncheon for Oct. 20th. A time to reminisce. He will be missed. Always a smile.*

**Pearl Mellott Koch** - October 07, 2015 at 12:14 PM



“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Jim's sudden passing. I will always remember his smiling face and happy attitude when he came to pick up his Sunday News comps at the Fulton Box Office. My thoughts and prayers go out to Jim's family and friends.  
God's Peace,  
Sue Cooke-Krackow*

**Sue Cooke-Krackow** - October 02, 2015 at 12:37 PM

BS

“ Gary,

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Barry Solodky** - October 02, 2015 at 10:08 AM

LS

“ *I will miss Jim so much as he always always had a Thursday hug for me when I came to the ER. Rest in Peace Jim*

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**linda stanley** - October 01, 2015 at 05:21 PM

CC

“ *There are many heavy hearts due to the passing of Jim Ruth and mine is one. He was a kind, vital, involved, young at heart soul who I loved. He will be missed greatly. My heartfelt sympathy to Jim's family and other friends.*

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**Cynthia Charles** - October 01, 2015 at 12:09 PM

KR

“ *Jim was an amazing man. I absolutely adored him. I am so sorry for your loss and for the loss of a great member of the Lancaster community. Saying that Jim will be sorely missed is an understatement. Sending the family lots of love at this most difficult time.*

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**Kathy Robb** - October 01, 2015 at 06:23 AM

LW

“ *We want to express our deepest sympathies to Jim's family and friends. He was a beacon in the Lancaster arts community, and was one of the kindest, funniest, and brightest people we've ever met. It was a privilege to have known him.*

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**Laurie & Chet Williamson** - September 30, 2015 at 11:26 AM

RS

“ We wish to express our condolences to Jim's family, his friends, and to all citizens of Lancaster county. Jim, always with dignity and charm, was a true servant to the theatre and all that it stood for. He will be missed for a long, long, time.

*Richard F. Smith*

*Lynn L. Barnes*

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**Richard F. Smith** - September 30, 2015 at 10:21 AM